

F139
W26

*in The New Jersey Union Executive Committee.
" party."*

MARCUS L. WARD,
"The SOLDIERS' FRIEND."

LET ALL WHO LOVE
TRUTH,
HONOR & GOODNESS,
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

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WILLIAM J. HAYD

THE SOLDIERS FRIEND

LET ALL WHO LOVE

TRUTH

HONOR & GOODNESS

STAND FIRMLY



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“THE SOLDIERS’ FRIEND.”

Those who happened to be in the city of Trenton in those glad days which followed the close of the war—those days of spring and early summer of 1865, when the sprouting foliage and bursting flowers were not more fragrant than the sweet hopes that clustered and bloomed again in the heart of the Nation under the dawning of the halcyon days of PEACE—could not but have been impressed with a remarkable fact. As the trains came whirling into the city from the South, bearing each their swarming load of jubilant and hearty boys home returning from the war, as the blue-clad, tawny files stepped out upon the soil of their native or adopted state, in almost every instance the first thing that happened, some bronzed veteran would step out of the lines, and, swinging his old blue cap, give the word, “Now boys, three cheers for MARCUS L. WARD, the Soldiers’ Friend.” And the cheers would roll down the dusty column like a thundering volley of guns, while the “Old Flag” would dip, and the drums rattle their stirring salute.

It was remarkable, indeed, that New Jersey soldiers should thus spontaneously and with such unanimity, remember and honor a mere *civilian* of their state, while passing by, without a whisper of recognition or remembrance, even the Governor of their state and other functionaries high in position. It is to show *why* these brave fellows singled out MARCUS L. WARD for the splendid and touching compliment they did, that the following pages are written. It is necessary that they should be written, to vindicate a pure and noble man from the falsehoods of men who, with a baseness which under the circumstances seems incredible, have, for political purposes and to subserve partisan ends, put on foot false statements impugning the patriotism, the purity, and the unselfishness of Mr. Ward, in his labors for the soldiers. Let all such read the following plain story, and blush with keen shame.

The reason why the New Jersey soldiers thus singled out MARCUS L. WARD for honor, was because he, of all men in the state, had been their steadfast

and conspicuous *friend*; nay, rather, had stood in the position of a father, or elder brother, to those brave and loyal men, devoting his time, his labor, his means, to them and their loved ones, with a generosity and self-sacrifice it is really not too much to say have not been equalled by any other individual in this state or out of it, during the war.

MARCUS L. WARD could not have entered upon the work he did and pursued it with such unflagging zeal and energy to the very end, through delays and impediments which would have disheartened and labors which would have crushed any common man, had he not possessed, in a most remarkable degree, qualities which fitted him for his great labor of Love, for a labor of Love it was, purely, as will be seen. It required not merely a singularly *philanthropic nature*, but uncommon business capacity and system, as well as the most fervent and exalted patriotism and faith in the National cause and its sure ultimate triumph—and all these Mr. Ward possessed in a pre-eminent degree.

MARCUS L. WARD was, in truth, *born* a Philanthropist. Such *are* born, and not made. Such were Howard, Wilberforce, Florence Nightingale and Miss Dix, of blessed fame. This virtue in Mr. Ward was not entirely singular in his person in his own family. The citizens of Newark well remember a gentle-voiced woman, with a light as from the open door of Heaven forever shining on her serene face, who lived but for the poor, the afflicted and the orphan: that angel upon earth, now an angel in Paradise, was a sister of MARCUS L. WARD. It is a proud privilege for the writer of this sketch, who enjoyed the delight of an acquaintance-ship with that truly noble woman, to be the means of extending, with that of her not less noble co-worker and kinsman, a knowledge of the rare virtues and eminent philanthropy of LAVINIA WARD. The beautiful Orphan Asylum at Newark will long stand as a monument of her zeal, energy, and self-denying love for the great Human Family. Those who charge MARCUS L. WARD with having been moved in his last and most illustrious work for the good of his kind, by any motive less pure than a spirit of genuine philanthropy, do not know how deep and cruel the injustice they do that noble man, who, for many years before his name was known to the majority of his fellow-citizens of Newark other than as an honest, high-toned, successful and public-spirited merchant and citizen, hand in hand with the sister we have named, was literally "going about doing good."

One instance, which is now well known to many of his fellow-citizens, will illustrate at once his benevolence and modesty. It is known that the Post

Office Department sends all letters that are not *pre-paid* with a stamp to the "Dead Letter" Office. Mr. Ward, learning that many letters thus failed to reach their destination, many years ago directed the Post-master at Newark to affix stamps at his expense to all unpaid letters. A little stamp was affixed in later years, reading as follows :

THIS LETTER

Was detained in the Post Office at Newark, N. J., on account of the non-payment of postage.

One who realizes how important it may be to have letters forwarded immediately, has placed the necessary stamps upon this letter.

To repay him, please send postage stamps of equal value, addressed to

BOX 582, NEWARK, N. J.

Mr. Ward continues this to this day, and of course is every year much out of pocket by his benevolent plan. It was a long time before the name of the generous friend was known who was thus saving hundreds of families yearly from sorrow, anxiety and loss, and it was only finally divulged at the peremptory request of the Postmaster General who had noticed many of the little tickets, which, notwithstanding the pre-payment on the letters they were affixed to had found their way to Washington. So pleased was he with the incident, that he made the fact, with Mr. Ward's name, public through the newspapers, much against that gentleman's desire. Thousands of letters have been received, (some of which would make a romance of themselves) by Mr. Ward, from grateful parties who had been spared infinite sorrow or trouble, or had derived great pecuniary or other benefit from his thoughtful benevolence. Surely none but a genuine philanthropist would have thought of so quiet yet effective a way of doing good.

And this was but a single incident of a *life-time* of beneficent acts. Mr. Ward's goodness of heart as well as his soundness of judgment, probity and justice, have been for many years proverbial among his friends and neighbors; and numberless are the instances where his wise counsel or business tact have been invoked for the harmonious settlement of business or family troubles. His kindness to deserving young men, mechanics and others, is also worthy of remark; and many a young man, now prosperous in business, owes his fortune to the helping hand generously held out by Mr. Ward. Trained as a business man in the severe school of that well-known and successful Democratic merchant, John H. Stephens, Esq., of Newark, and long occupying responsible positions in great business enterprises and corporations, he came to the great work of

his life with a mind not only full of love for his fellow man, but thoroughly trained for a labor requiring rare exactitude, business acumen and skill.

When the Rebellion broke out Mr. Ward espoused the cause of his country with every energy of his nature, casting aside business, pleasure, home-comfort, everything—he girded his loins for a work which, with remarkable sagacity, he foresaw was to be no light nor speedily-completed one. The limits of an article like the present will not permit more than the most rapid and summary glance at the labors undertaken by Mr. Ward since the commencement of the war, and not yet completed.

In April, 1861, when the nation was roused by the guns of Sumter to stand up and behold the dark and bloody design of Treason revealed in all its horrid scope, Mr. Ward took the initiative in calling the first public meeting which was held in New Jersey to assure the Government that the heart of the proud little commonwealth beat true to the Union, and that the blood of the Revolution was again aflame in the bosoms of Jersey men, to avenge the insult offered the “Old Flag.” At this meeting, held in the city of Newark, a Public Aid Committee, consisting of 24 well-known citizens, was formed, Mr. Ward being chairman of the committee. This committee at once went to work under the energetic supervision of Mr. Ward to raise soldiers to march to the help of the Government beleagured in its own Capital by armed rebels. This committee raised large sums of money by subscription among the patriotic citizens, which were expended in fitting out the volunteers with blankets and other necessities, and in providing, as far as possible, for the comfortable equipment of the forces thus suddenly raised, before the General Government or that of the state could provide themselves to meet the emergency. The duties of this committee soon ceased as the war machinery was reduced to proper working order by the Government, and placed in the hands of its own agencies.

But the labors of MARCUS L. WARD did *not* cease, but rather *increased* with every day the war went on. With the thoughtfulness and sagacity peculiar to him he comprehended that, no matter how sedulously the Government might look after the welfare of its soldiers, (and no Government ever excelled ours in this duty) there would be a thousand needs of the soldiers and sailors, which, if not looked after by some agency not bound by the necessarily rigid, methodical, and often dilatory operations of the War Department, would cause great suffering; and, fully recognizing the magnitude of the task, he determined—not to get up a society, or induce somebody else to do it, but—to DO IT HIMSELF. Those countless and crying necessities of the soldier and sailor, which at a later period were so imperious as to call for the establishment of

those noble institutions the U. S. Sanitary and Christian Commissions, were, from the first bloody dawn of the war comprehended, and, so far as the soldiers of New Jersey were concerned, to the extent of his power and means provided for by Mr. Ward. He afterwards accepted an honorary membership of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, established its work in New Jersey, and, without neglecting in the least his own Bureau of Soldiers' Relief, gave the Commission a zealous and influential support.

It may be here remarked that, in January, 1862, Mr. Ward was chosen by President Lincoln one of the "Allotment Commissioners," whose duty was to provide for the safer transmission home of the soldiers' pay; but he declined the appointment, as experience had proved that a plan devised by himself for receiving and disbursing the soldiers' pay to their families, and already in operation, was by far the best. This system, which was the first introduced into the army, brought into use the agency of the chaplains and officers of the regiments. Before it was devised, the transmission of funds from the army by mail, express or private hands, was attended by great risk, delay and loss. Thousands of dollars thus sent never reached their destination, while the very uncertainty attending the getting his money home induced the soldier to keep it by him, and naturally much of it was spent to no benefit to the soldier or his family, and often to the lasting harm of both. With the inauguration of Mr. Ward's system, the amounts sent home on every pay-day enormously increased, and not a dollar ever miscarried or was lost.

In order to carry on his work of soldiers' aid properly and systematically, Mr. Ward at once opened an office in Newark, where a corps of clerks were at all times engaged in the multifarious labors undertaken by him, he giving the work his personal and careful supervision. So tremendous was the pressure of labor upon him, that even the sacred and refreshing relaxation and repose of the Sabbath was wrested from him, and, with his son's assistance on that day, Mr. Ward has toiled Sunday after Sunday, in the wearisome and perplexing labors which to him were sacred duties. The system pursued in this office was a model of method, precision and dispatch. Some of the work here done may be briefly alluded to: Mr. Ward assumed the duty of securing and collecting the state pay, Government bounties and back pay of the soldiers both in the service and after discharge, and the enormously perplexing labor of examining into and adjusting the numberless complaints and difficulties naturally arising among the soldiers. If a man got into trouble from any cause, to MARCUS L. WARD he turned as surely as a son to a father. In hundreds of cases where soldiers had been condemned to penalties such

as confinement, loss of pay, dismissal from service, etc., the searching and brotherly scrutiny invariably undertaken by Mr. Ward would be sure to set him right, if wronged. In hundreds of cases unjust sentences have been revoked, or sentences remitted, the offence being proved to be a venial one. One example only need be noted. In one case 39 men of a New Jersey regiment had been tried and sentenced to three years hard labor with loss of all pay and allowances and to be dishonorably discharged from the service. Mr. Ward, after incredible labor and pains finally procured a remission of this sentence, so that all the men received an honorable discharge; and only one half lost their back pay, the others receiving pay in full. The great confidence reposed by the Government in the probity and justice of Mr. Ward enabled him better than any one else to perform this task.

Mr. Ward's care for the soldier ceased not with his death. To him the widow and orphan looked for the collection of back pay, bounties and other claims, and never looked in vain. It is ascertained from an authoritative source, that Mr. Ward has secured back pay, etc., to a vastly larger amount *than all other agencies for the purpose in New Jersey combined*. The welfare of the soldiers' families was as carefully looked after as that of the soldier himself. Did a wife want to learn the whereabouts of a long silent husband; did a widow or mother of a dead soldier want to know where the precious dust was laid, and to recover it, or, if that were impossible to secure such mementoes as however trifling are inconceivably precious to the heart of affection—to Mr. Ward they went, and the work was done, if in the power of man to do. No detail of care for the New Jersey soldier or his loved ones, however important, or however trivial, but was carefully and religiously executed by this good friend. Did a wife, mother or sister who could not write, want to correspond with their soldier they knew that at MARCUS L. WARD's office they would find a ready hand and sympathizing heart to assume the humble duty of their secretary and amanuensis. In passing, we may state that not less than *thirty thousand letters* have been mailed from Mr. Ward's office on soldier's business during the past four and a half years, and at least *one hundred thousand persons* have visited his office on business connected with the soldiers or sailors.

No one not thoroughly conversant with the facts can form any idea of the multifarious duties Mr. Ward was called upon and cheerfully undertook to do. To enumerate them would be both amazing and amusing—amazing from their magnitude—amusing from the many curious and often absurd tasks he was called upon to attempt. But to enter into anything like detail would

far transcend the space at our service. Among them were the institution of inquiries as to the health, condition and habits of the men in the field, the collection and payment of debts, the settlement of business affairs, the obtaining of furloughs, transfers from hospitals, discharges from the service, seeking out and bringing home the remains of the dead, visiting and comforting the families of the absent; even undertaking, when requested, the reconciliation of *domestic* troubles, where nothing was wanting save the interposition of a judicious friend and counsellor to restore peace and joy to a desolate home. He has been made the banker and depository of innumerable trusts, such as U. S. bonds and other valuable papers, and hundreds of soldiers' *wills* call upon him to act as their executor. One of the heaviest of his duties has been the investment of funds sent him for that purpose, and the charge of the vast amounts sent him for deposit in the savings banks. The business every pay-day of a regiment was perfectly enormous.

Not satisfied to know of the welfare of the soldier from correspondence and hearsay, Mr. Ward has made it his business frequently to visit in person the camps and hospitals, and by actual observation and conversation with the men, he learned much that it was proper for *some* one to know who had a heart to desire and a will to insure that abuses should be rectified. To his prompt intervention, persevering energy and powerful influence, the New Jersey soldiers owe the reformation of numberless abuses and causes of just complaint. Through him many a worthless officer has been removed, and many a worthy officer and private promoted. He knew the history and circumstances of nearly every New Jersey regiment, and was known personally to nearly every soldier of the state. There were few of the great battles of the war in which New Jersey soldiers were engaged, where, before the smoke had fairly lifted from the scene of blood and carnage MARCUS L. WARD was not "at the front" ministering to the sick and wounded, or looking tenderly after his dead. More than once has sickness, contracted in these errands of mercy, brought *him* to death's door.

The establishment of a hospital at Newark, where New Jersey soldiers might be nearer their homes and friends was due to Mr. Ward's thoughtful care for the New Jersey soldiers. Before the establishment of a hospital at Newark, New Jersey soldiers were scattered through a hundred different hospitals, putting their friends to great trouble, vexation and expense to reach them—their *whereabouts*, indeed, being often impossible to ascertain. Mr. Ward procured the location of a hospital at Newark, intended at first for New Jersey patients solely. It was under the care of the state authorities, Mr.

Ward not only advancing on the spot the means for its fitting up, but undertaking the onerous duty of superintendent. The rapid completion of this hospital at a period of sharp and terrible necessity, will ever be remembered as a surprising testimony to the energy, executive ability, and business capacity of MARCUS L. WARD.

It was found, after a while, that many advantages would be secured by placing the Hospital under the care of the General Government, and this was accordingly effected through the agency of Mr. Ward; the Government, in recognition of his important services, conferring his name upon the institution, which has since been known as the "Ward U. S. General Hospital." The assumption by the Government of the management of the institution did not prevent Mr. Ward from watching over its interests with jealous care; and that it has been one of the best managed and most comfortable hospitals in the country, is not a little owing to his watchful supervision. The hospital was indebted to his thoughtful and all-embracing philanthropy for a set of embalming apparatus, with the stipulation that any patient dying there should be embalmed, so that friends might at any future time identify and recover the remains, and to many improvements of various kinds looking to the comfort and happiness of the inmates.

Mr. Ward's services to the soldiers and their families have not stopped at labors in their behalf, arduous and excessive as those have been. He has held his *purse* ever open to minister to their necessities. There have been dark days in the war, when the government machinery was hampered by the pressure of foes from without and embarrassed by the clogging devices of enemies within "its own household." At these moments it was unable to furnish promptly the money needed to pay its soldiers, and there was often, as is well remembered, great suffering among the soldiers and their families. At these times Mr. Ward has advanced enormous sums, from his private means, upon the pay of the soldiers, without a cent of interest, *his only security being his faith in the National cause*. His advances have reached at times the large sum of THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS! The amount of suffering he has prevented or relieved is utterly incalculable. But not seldom was he appealed to for an outright *gift* by persons in dire need, and to a worthy applicant his hand was never shut. He was skilled, too, in penetrating that honest pride under which there are those who will endure all extremities—even to death—before they will *beg*; and many a mother's heart has been lifted from the very abyss of despair where anxiety for the fireless, shoeless, hungry little ones at home had sunk it, by a timely present from this good man, so deli-

cately conveyed as to forbid the slightest pang. Well may thousands of women here in New Jersey pray nightly "God bless MARCUS L. WARD!"

And now, to crown all this magnificent record of noble acts, and to let the greatness of soul of Marcus L. Ward be fully appreciated, let it be remembered that all this vast machinery of soldiers' aid *was kept in operation by Mr. Ward entirely at his own cost.* All this expenditure of time, every solitary item of outlay for travelling expenses, for clerk hire, for telegraphing, for stationery, for postage—in fine *every* dollar of expense attending the transaction of the business of his office, *was paid by Mr. Ward out of his own pocket.* So that not a soldier, nor the family of a soldier, not even the city, the state, nor the National Government, nor any person or agency whatsoever, was ever put to as much as a dollar of cost for services rendered by Mr. Ward to the soldiers. He has not even charged a cent of *interest* on the vast sums advanced by him to save the soldiers or their families from suffering, while he has all the while entirely surrendered his own business affairs, and, of course, has thereby alone experienced serious loss.

It is certainly not too much to say that such an example of philanthropy, patriotism and self-sacrifice has not been excelled, if equalled, in the whole brilliant record of the services of eminent patriots during the war.

One would reasonably imagine that, now that the war is over, Mr. Ward would rest from his labors and seek the ease and enjoyment of his pleasant home. Not so. His work is not done, he thinks, until he has seen all done that can be, on the part of a grateful country, in requital of the matchless services of her brave defenders. He is now, and has been for two years, actively engaged in looking after the establishment of a SOLDIERS' HOME in New Jersey, where disabled veterans of the war may spend their days in peace and comfort. Is it any wonder, then, that Marcus L. Ward has been, of all men in his state, honored with the love and veneration of the soldiers, and the title, prouder than that of Lord or Duke, of "THE SOLDIERS' FRIEND?"

Is it any wonder that the New Jersey soldiers as they came marching home with the laurels of victory crowning their brows, and the lustre of their great triumph making splendid and beautiful their faded, shot-torn banners; came marching home from gory field, from sickly camp, from dismal prison-pen, to the serene joys of home, to wife and children, to parents and friends, to warm hearts and warm hearth-stones, should, as their war-weary feet pressed the soil of New Jersey, with grateful spontaneity remember the man who, of all others, had been their best, their constant and unswerving FRIEND?

Is it any marvel they should now desire to bestow upon him some mark of



their gratitude and affection; should with unanimity and enthusiasm insist that *he shall be the next Governor of New Jersey?* Is not their request a reasonable and proper one? Is there a patriotic voter in the state—his fitness for the position being acknowledged—who will refuse to cast his ballot for **MARCUS L. WARD?**

As false statements have been put on foot by interested persons for partisan ends, particular attention is called to the following offer:

\$1,000 REWARD!

One Thousand Dollars will be paid by the Union Executive Committee of New Jersey for proof that **MARCUS L. WARD**, the Union Candidate for Governor, has received a single dollar of remuneration, commission or profit *from any quarter*, for services rendered by him or through his office for soldiers' business, to the soldiers of New Jersey or other states during the late Rebellion; or that he has received a dollar in reimbursement of any expense incurred by him personally or through said office for the same purpose; or that he has charged a cent of interest on any money advanced by him on soldiers' pay, or to the state or General Government; or that he has derived from Government or state contracts or other sources connected with the war any emolument or profit.

SIGNED,

CHARLES P. SMITH, ESQ.,
Gen. GEO. M. ROBESON,
GEO. A. HALSEY, ESQ.,
SOCRATES TUTTLE, ESQ.,
Hon. JOHN T. NIXON,
JOHN S. APPLEGATE, ESQ.,

BARKER GUMMERE, ESQ.,
Maj. Z. K. PANGBORN,
Hon. JOHN F. VOORHEES,
Col. EDWARD JARDINE,
Col. A. P. BERTHOUD,
Col. JAS. F. RUSLING,

Union State Ex. Com. of New Jersey.